

THE WORLD ECONOMY GAME

(Summarized by Dana Adcock from the game STAR POWER. More detailed instructions available from Warner Woodworth, BYU)

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OBJECTIVE: After playing the game, each student will better understand the lack of equality in the global economy and the rules that are often set by the rich.

CONCEPT: Some poor people and countries find it difficult to "get ahead" because of unfair rules and circumstances.

Each person starts out with **5 colored chips**. The chips are to be hidden, so only each person knows what is in his hand. The chips have a value, as do combinations of chips. The purpose of the first round is to trade chips and obtain a high number of points. Players must trade 2 chips for 2 chips, 3 for 3, and so forth. At the end of the first round of trading, players count up points and are placed in one of three groups according to their earnings.

Chips and their value:

gold	50 points
green	25 points
red	15 points
white	10 points
blue	5 points

Combination values:

2 of a kind	0 extra points
3 of a kind	5 extra points
4 of a kind	10 extra points
5 of a kind	20 extra points

The top group is given black **circles** to wear, the middle group is given green **triangles**, and the bottom group is given orange **squares**. These shapes are to be worn to distinguish one player from another. The **circle** group leaves the room and decides the trading rules for the next round. They can make up any rules they choose.

Players are given more time to trade, according to the rules established by the **circle** group. Points are added up at the end and added to the previous score. Adjustments are made to groups according to total earnings at the end of the second round of trading. The **circle** group goes out of the room to make adjustments to the rules for the next round. The third round is begun, according to new rules. New rules and trading can go on for as many rounds as the teacher desires.

Debrief the students about how they felt. What group would they have preferred to be in? Were the rules established by the **circles** fair? How is this similar to the world situation?

Often the developing countries feel they do not have much say in world affairs and their own development. They play according to richer people's rules and never get ahead. Sometimes the rules are set by other, more wealthy countries. Many times the rules are established by their own wealthy government leaders.